A MARVELL, Deciphered.

AT LONDON,
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Iohn VVinnington, at the golden
Tunne neere to S. Dunſtones Church
in Fleete-ſtreete. 1589.

BRITISH MUSEUM

To the Right Honorable, my very good Lord: Henrie Carey, Baron of Hunſdon: Knight of *the moſt noble Order of the Garter: Lorde Chamberlaine* of her Maieſties moſt Honorable Houſ*hold: Lord Gouernour of Barwicke: Lord Warden of* the Eaſt Marches for an anempſt *Scotland*: Lord Lieſtenant of *Suffolke* and *Norfolke*: Captaine of her *Maieſties Gentlemen Penſioners, and one of* hir Highnes moſt Honourable priuie Counſell.

RIght Honorable, *where as mention is made in the twelfth Chapter of the Reuelation of ſaint Iohn, of a great wonder in Heauen, namely*, A woman clothed with the Sun, hauing the Moone vnder hir feete, and vpon hir head a Crowne of twelue Starres, &c. *A wonder of*

no ſmall maruell amongſt men; that was ſaide to bee a wonder in heauen containing ſome ſtrange miſterie, wherein the nature of the Sunne is not vnaptly to be conſidered, being a moſt goodly creature of God, and glorious in the ornament of heauen, and no leſſe beneficiall to all creatures of the earth, wherein alſo wee may beholde, not by any prepoſterous compariſon of the creature, with the Creator, but by naturall coniecture with more effectuall motions in part to diſcerne; the glorious omnipotency and maruelous mercies in the mightie Maieſtie of the Creator of all beautie and benefites: namely, in and by Jeſus Chriſt the true Sonne that lighteneth all the worlde. In and by whom wee receiue ſo infinite, ſo great and ineffable bleſſinges, both for body and ſoule, as alſo in this world and in the world to come: vnto whom the naturall Sunne with his good gifts doth yeelde obedience as tributarie for his creation. Wherein we are ſo impotent duely to expreſſe or diſcerne the aboundance of his beneuolence: that wee are conſtrained with griefe of minde, to complaine of this carnall Carkaſſe ſo dull and vnapt to performe the ſame, as a weak and feeble poſt, that falleth

leth al to ſhiuers, vnder the burden of ſome weightie frame. By whoſe moſt pure and holie lawe, hee hath left vs, the more to moue our vnaptnes in ſome proportion according to our capacities, to conceiue of his moſt merciſull liberalitie, in heauen and earth, both now & euermore. Which holy law in generall conſtruction of Chriſtians, is truelie ſaid to be the aparel of the church: that doth inueſt hir ſelfe with the deuine and immaculate Lawe of Chriſt the ſonne of God. And whereby the chriſtian Church is indued with ſounde knowledge to know God aright: and to liue in concord and amiable affection with all men. Which may be ſaide to be the peace of God which paſſeth all vnderſtanding, containing the moſt perfect harmonie of heauenlie concorde, as alſo yeelding aſpiring mindes vnto inexplicable bleſſinges: namely, to be deliuered from the terrible and the moſt cruell and ineſtimable calamities and bondage of Sathan: to bee made a citizen of Heauen, of the fellowſhip of Angels, with moſt ſingular delight to beholde the glorious Maieſty and preſence of God, to poſſeſſe ioyes vnſpeakeable, that the eies of man did neuer ſee, or his eares hath euer hearde, either may bee contained

tained within the thoughts of his heart. By which corporatiō & number of the christiā Church, the heauens shall be adorned: & the glory of God most magnificētly magnified. The glorious & heauenly apparell aforesaid, not by outward apparāce vnto the eies of carnall men, but by the eies of a deuine mind is to be discerned: and in such wise to be considered as that which containeth all in all: for so much as it may not be truely said, that there is any true felicitie to be obtained by mān, or to men; or true honour vnto God, but that in and by this saide lawe, is founde out, inioyed, and performed. Which holy lawe so much preuailed within the space of fiue or sixe hundred yeares after Christes incarnation, that the whole knowen Nations of the earth imbraced the same, vntill Sathan had begotten Antichrist his eldest Sonne, who doubting some prevention of his fathers patrimony, obtained the true stampe of his fathers phistognomie, which is murder; to giue most certain testimonie by what spirit he is gouerned also conseruing vnto himself the very image of his own guilefull father, contriuing decrit, to beguile the diuell himself (if it were possible) by a supposed holines & religion, al-

though

though counterfeit and most false. Neuertheleſſe, the very cloake and couer of the moſt infernall drench of deadly poiſon, ſo ſhadowed with the vehement ſpirite of hipocriſie, the guileſull enemie to all vertue, which the Chriſtian eſtate both greedily and generally ſwallowed and deuoured in the darkned daies of the Goſpel of Chriſt Jeſus, to the cruell ouerthrow of all true Religion: with the whole frame of all the ineffable bleſſings aforeſaid: And wherewithall by the power of a doubled ſpirite receiued from Sathan, in the Temple of the euerliuing God, he both forged and placed a newe vnknowen and a Monſtruous god, neuer ſeene or heard of before the comming of Antichriſt, a preſumption neuer contained in the heart or thought of any perſon whatſoeuer, namely to increaſe and to eſtabliſh a new God, but in the man of ſinne, the ſon of perdition: which infernal inuention ſtretcheth it ſelfe beyond all his other wickednesſe leauing nothing vndone that was to bee done, either to the blaſphemy & diſhonor of God, or execrable crueltie againſt the whole generation of men: reſpecting either the generality, in which number not one eſcapeth: or the horrour and the greatnes

of the euill in which hee that escapeth best cheape loseth body and soule. Upon consideration, viewe and newes of which cursed new god, with scorneful derision: All Jewes, Turkes, Mores, Sarazins, all Mahomatists and Jndian Idolaters, are fled as men hunted with a Monster from their saluation. Before the inuention of which wretched god the greatest portion of all these Nations aforesaid, confessed Christ to bee their onely saluation: and doubtlesse otherwise the whole Nations of the earth, had beene submitted vnder the obedience of the gospell of Jesus Christ, but nowe by Gods permission, when it may iustly be saide, that this saide Church of Christ the sonne of God, by the malice of Sathan, is brought vnto hir last decay, and left as desolate but onely in an angle of the world, the engin of man being vtterly incapable of all remedie or reliefe for the same.

Euen then: Time, reuealer of hidden secrets, deliuereth demonstration that God himselfe hath erected the woman mentioned in the twelfth chapter of the Reuelation of saint Iohn, that nowe at this instant by Gods great fauour, standeth clothed with the Sunne the right and most true ve-

sture

ſture of the Church, namely, the moſt pure and holy lawe of Chriſt Ieſus the Sonne of God, who with a moſt principall portion of fortitude, confirmed with an aſſured confidence in hir Chriſt and God, as a maine piller erected by deuine prouidence, to beare the weightie frame of reparation of this decaied and deſolate Church of God aforeſaide, proceeding with a minde vnappaulled to the daungerous defence of the ſame, againſt all the enemies of Europe whatſoeuer, and as by a circle of the Sun, beeing placed, by deuine ordinaunce as a King amongeſt the Planets, yeelding light and life vnto all ſignes and Starres of Heauen, euen ſo that woman, which is ſaid to bee the Reuelation of ſaint Iohn to bee adorned with the ſhining veſture of the Sunne, from the brightnes of which garment many Nations hath receiued, doth and ſhall receiue: both light and life vnto their great and eternall comfort, and hauing the Moone according to the Text, placed vnder her feete, with great obedience to yeelde aſſiſtance with all her force and influences, in ſtrange enterpriſes by Sea to bee atchieued and right happily finiſhed: and vpon hir heade, that Royall ſhining Crowne of twelue

Starres. In all obscure and difficult causes to conduct with a fatall faith, in most certaine, true and cleare direction: vpon which infallible foundation, as an Architector to aduaunce the most difficult, deuine and inexpungnable fortification for warfare, that euer was seene or heard: not after the carnall man of flesh, but mightie through God, to cast downe holds, casting downe imaginations, and euery light thing, that is exalted against the knowledge of God: and bringing into captiuitie euerie thought to the obedience of Christ. This said spirituall warfare, so sufficiently furnished with such deuine armour and munition, yeelding most certaine hope of assured victorie.

Yet neuertheless, Sathan which neuer ceaseth his enuious inuasions against the children of God, is nowe constrained, to furnish his agent and eldest sonne Antichrist: not according vnto his accustomed manner, to deceiue the Nations with a slumbring potion of lethargie; plausible both to the deceiuer and the deceiued, but with the inuention of othes: engines to inuade the houshold of faith, namely, fire, sword, treason and poison and such other straunge and vngodly tooles, wherewith hee

hath

hath made ſufficient proofe of his counterfeit holi-
nes, and whereby hee hath made bloudie hauocke
of infinite noble and holie perſons and hath daun-
gered the ſtate of ſundrie and many Countries,
Kinges and Kingdomes, the onely euident reaſons
and arguments to defende his deſperate eſtate, to
vnderprop his decaious kingdome. But God him-
ſelfe hauing care of his owne cauſes, prouiding at
his owne pleaſure ſafetie and conſolation for his
elect in all their proceedinges, and alſo for ſeruice
and defence of that ſacred perſon inueſted with
the Sunne aforeſaide. Certaine engines as yet vn-
knowen vnto the world, for ouerthrow of an hun-
dred thouſand of his enemies vpon land: and to
confounde a thouſande Saile of Ships if they ariue
within a mile of anie Shoare of England, as alſo
for doubling of anie Cape, or forland Rocke, or
ſandie banke, either to purſue, or to eſcape being o-
uercharged with enemies, to enforce a Shippe to
make waie at Sea againſt both winde and tide.

Theſe ſtraunge matters right Honorable, I
thought conuenient (enforced by your Honors re-
ceiued fauour) conſtrained in longing deſire by
ſome laudable meanes, and in ſome portion to ex-

preſſe

preſſe my ductifull ſeruice vnto your Nobleneſſe, to preſent my humble ſute vnto your Honour, both for my ſelfe and the matter; that wee may iountlie bee receiued into your Honours fauourable protection, whereby the worke it ſelfe may obtaine generall and friendly entertainement, and the teſtimoniall and ornament of my commendation and behauiour, by your Honors good liking no little aduancement: Crauing with all humblenes that deſire to doe well may bee mine excuſe, for all defectes that herein may appeare: And J your Honors poore Orator ſhall nowe and alwaies pray vnto the euerliuing God, to illuſtrate your Nobleneſſe with great encreaſe and with euerlaſting felicitie.

Your Honors moſt ductifull Orator, *E. H.*

A NOTE OF strange things mentioned of a *Woman conteined in the* 12. Chapter of the Reuelation of Saint Iohn.

ND there appeared a great wonder in heauen, a woman clothed with the Sunne and the Moone vnder hir feete and vpon hir head a crowne of xii. ſtarres; A woman to bee clothed with the Sunne, is a maruell both miſticall and deuine conteyning ſome glorious effect, and the miſticall diſcription of the true Church of God, deſcribed in the forme of a woman, which is naturall to procreation, to bee clothed with the Sunne, is to put on or to be inueſted with Chriſt Ieſus the ſonne of God and to be endued with his deuine ſpirit. So as if there be anie ſacred woman, that notablie to the wonder of the worlde by the mightie power of the ſpirite of God, without abaſhment of ſo dangerous an enterpriſe hath aduaunced the glorious Goſpell of Chriſt, protected and defended peoples and countries

Text.

Nor to be doubted what womā before all the kings or perſons whatſoeuer vpon earth frō the firſt publiſhing of this propheſie vnto this day hath beene moſt apparātly clothed with the ſon namely Ieſus Chriſt.

tries that haue profeſſed the ſame, to the perilous haſarde in the eies of men of her perſon and eſtate, contrarie to all humaine pollicie and hath vowed to thadmiration of men, and in deſpite of Sathan and his agent Antichriſt with all there adherents to performe the ſame, manifeſtile diſcouering to be beautified with the veſture, and apparell of the ſunne. That ſame woman whatſoeuer, may aptlie be applied without figure to accompliſh this propheſie.

Text.

Not to bee doubted what womā before all others whatſoeuer as a ſubſtitute vnder God hath brought forth ſo great and diuine light in time of ſo great darkeneſſe: either for whō the moone by hir force and influence hath brought more deſtruction to hir enimies either vnto hir enterpriſes at ſea better ſucceſſe.

And the Moone vnder hir feete. The Moone that receiueth light from the Sunne, as a ſubſtitute, to giue light in time of darkenes, whoſe nature is to giue increaſe to growing things, & ruler of marin cauſes and of nature inconſtant, ſo as if by deuine ordinance, there be any woman that as a ſubſtitute from God and his Chriſt, that with zeale, ſtrength and power, in the dayes of ignorant darkenes, hath reuealed, and made to ſhine, with great and comfortable brightnes, the holie miſteries, and ſecrets of God in flowing abundance, ſo as countries, and nations, haue beene lightned therewith, and vnto whome the Lord of heauen and earth hath giuen power to performe maruels at ſea & in contempt of inconſtancie holdeth the Moone, with hir inconſtant dealing vnder hir feete, confirmed with mortall hatred to all vnſound and variable proceeding doctrine and religion, that ſame woman effecteth this propheſie.

Text.

Not to bee doubted who

And vpon hir head a crowne of twelue ſtarres. If there bee anie notable woman, that hath made knowne vnto the worlde, To haue beautified hir head with

the

the moſt ſinguler holie and bright doctrine of the twelue Apoſtles, and Prophets, all which ſpeake but one thing in effect. And hath garniſhed hir ſenſes with vehement care to imploy this proceeding, to manifeſt the brightnes of the ſame to all nations may aptlie be ſaide to be crowned with twelue glorious ſtarres, both in life, and death, yelding immortall glorie. Such a woman effectuallie effecteth this prophecie.

it is that with immortal glorie ſtandeth crowned with the bright doctrine of the twelue Apoſtles.

Text.

And ſhe was with Childe, and cried traueling in birth and was pained readie to be deliuered; So as if there bee anie woman that with an ardent & an holy deſire, traueileth with zeale, coſt and danger, and with power inforceth the birth of the childe, and the Lorde Ieſus which is his ſacred worde, and the Image of himſelfe, and her vehement deſire made knowen by lawes, aduertiſments, and proclamations, to all nations farre beyonde the reach of all crying, diſcouering hir paine, and readines to haue the ſame deliuered and publiſhed to all creatures, That God may be glorified effectually. Such a woman effecteth this propheſie.

Not to bee doubted who aboue all others traueileth to bring foorth this child Ieſus.

Text.

And the dragon ſtoode before the woman which was readie to bee deliuered to deuoure hir childe when ſhee had brought it forth; If there be any woman of ſuch worthines whoſe holy indeuors in deuine procreation of the child Ieſus, with hir zeale, in true religion & aduauncement of his holie word, the verie Image, of himſelfe with readie power and ſtrength, for & in the aſſiſtance, comfort, and mightie defence of all perſons, and countries, that profeſſe the ſame, which from the firſt time ſhee began to bring

Not to bee doubted what woman or what childthe Dragon hath ſought to deuoure.

foorth this childe, hath beene mightilie reſiſted & withſtoode by the Dragon and his aſſiſtances, in all notable apparance to deſtroy this childe: namely, the worde of God, and in the firſt birth of the profeſſours of the ſame, to pull them vp by the rootes. This and ſuch a wowan, may ſeeme, and be ſaid, to effect this prophecie.

Text. Not to bee doubted what woman or what child the dragon hath ſought to deuoure,

And ſhee brought forth a man childe, which ſhould rule all Nations with a rodde of yron. This man childe is Chriſt Ieſus our Sauiour, which by his hypocriticall aduerſarie Antichriſt, hath beene obſcured, & after a manner buried, and made vnknowen many hundred yeres from the knowledge of the worldly multitude. So as if there be any woman, to whom God hath giuen ſpeciall grace, not onely to bringe to light, but alſo to defende the ſacred worde, and glorious Goſpel of the childe, and Lord Ieſus, ſo as in apparance ſhee hath brought foorth with great care and induſtry, and ſhal to the no ſmall griefe of hir enemies, deliuer the ſame to the Nations of the earth. For this man childe Ieſus with his rodde of yron, namely, by his abſolute power, ſhal grinde his enimies to powder, and breake them in pieces like a Potters veſſel: an aſſured comfort to all faithfull in Chriſt that their redeemer, ruleth with ſuch ſpeciall power to protect them, as alſo to chaſtiſe their enemies. Such a woman may effectually be ſaid to effect this prophecie.

Text. Not to bee doubted who againſt all reſiſtance, doth

And hir ſonne was taken vp vnto God, and to his throne. Not to be doubted, but that when the red Dragon, deſcribed in the ſaid Chapter, with his ſeuen heads, tenne hornes, and vpon his heade ſeuen Crownes, hath

hath disgorged all his venome, with most bloudie crueltie: with his seuen heades, practised all their subtil deuises, in wicked inuentions: his ten hornes, their force, and violence, to performe slaughter & shedding of bloud: his seauen Crowned heades enlarged all their aucthoritie, to accomplish these euils aforesaide: yet it shall no further preuaile: then earthly and sinfull power, may preuaile against the mightie and infinite power of God: which from heauen doth scorne and deride all their proceedings: for so much as he is taken vp vnto God, and his power is from aboue. And by confusion of this saide bloudie beast, God hath determined; to glorie in his holy name. And as the Virgin Marie, iustlie and rightlie reioiced for that by election, she before all women naturally did bring forth, the Lord, and Sauiour of the worlde: euen so that woman, which aboue all women, hath to this daie since the first publication of this prophecie, beene adopted by Gods mercie, to reuiue his honour and glorie: and thereby doth accept to saie to be hir Sonne; in hir portion hath iust cause to saie; *Magnificat anima mea Deus.* And to reioice aboue all other women, liuing, and none like vnto such a woman to effect this prophecie.

Not to bee doubted that any person hath more cause to ioye then that woman which is made an Instrument to bring foorth a child that was taken vp vnto God namely the worde of God.

Text.

And the woman fled into the wildernes, where she hath a place prepared of God, that they shoulde feede hir there: a thousand two hundreth and three score daies. As Christe sundrie times frequented the wildernes, to bee deliuered from his enemies, as also to commit his temptations to God, by contemplatiō and praier, so God himselfe as the Text saith; hath prepared a

Not to bee doubted for what woman, God by his so manie deliuerances hath prouided safety for a fixed

time, which shal not be altered by anie power whatsoeuer.

place for this woman in the wildernes, a solitarie & a rare haunt of persons, where by appointment she shall flie, and nestle hirselfe; by hir reposed confidence in the bosome of the higheſt, a place of assured quietnes, as also farre in the vtter parts of the world, vnder the North Pole, where it is said, by the mightie multitude of men; dwelling on the heart heart of the earth. That the inhabitants of that wildernes: are grosse, wilde and barbarous, but it hath pleased the higheſt, that there she shall bee fed and securelie prouided, and defended, a time fixed, and set downe which shall not be remoued by anie power of enemies whatsoeuer: so as if there be anie woman; that appeareth so placed and securelie defended; That same woman in all resemblance most properly seemeth to fulfill this prophecie.

Text.

Not to bee doubted what woman hath bene persecuted bythe dragon, and his Antichriſt since he was depriued of al habitation in heauenly mindes & cast into the hart of earthlie rebrobate bythe reuelation of the child Iesus.

And when the Dragon sawe that hee was cast into the earth, he persecuted the woman which had brought foorth the man childe; That is, when the Dragon, the Diuell saw himselfe, and his Angels; which is Antichriſt & his reprobates: by the almightie Michael Christ & his Angels, the godlie Magistrates & professors of his Gospell, to be cast into the earth: that is to saie, all his drosse of superstition, idolatrie, and all his other filthines, of religion deciphered, & made knowne to all persons (thonly reprobates excepted) into whose earthlie hearts, he is cast; as it were into the earth: for that he is depriued of all habitation in heauenlie mindes, so as if there be anie woman that by a receiued grace, hath, or nowe liueth since the first publishing of this propheſie, which with a manifest zeale, cost and danger, hath trauailed

led to bringe foorth this man childe Christ Iesus, notoriouslie in the sight of the worlde: which is to saie, confessed, published and aduaunced his holie lawes, his sacred worde, and most glorious Gospel, hir onelie beautie and saluation. To the great and most discomfortable griefe of Antichrist, who forced therewith hath nowe according to the second Psalme of King Dauid.

Conuented, the Kings and Rulers, of the earth a- *Text.*
gainst the Lorde and his annointed, but hee that dwelleth in heauen shall laugh them to scorne, and then he shall speake to them in his wrath, and vexe them in his sore displeasure, becausе they are not learned to serue the Lord in feare, and shall be forced to kisse the sonne, lest in his anger, they perish from the right waie, if his wrath bee kindled, for to him shall bee giuen the Heathen for inheritaunce, and the vttermost parts of the earth for his possession, and blessed are all they that put their trust in him.

Which misterie at this instant beginneth to worke, and from henceforth bee accomplished, by which feminine instrument: this foresaid Dragon and his Antichrist, with all their adherents, are, and must be throwne downe, confounded, and are now entered into so great a fume, and pelting chafe, as at this daie is most apparant, against this woman. Who may be said to effect this prophecie.

But to the woman was giuen the winges of a great *Text.*
Ægle, that she might flie into the wildernes, into hir place where she is nouriſhed, for a time, and times, and halfe a time, from the presence of the Serpent. These winges signifying

nify ing not onelie ſome aſſured, and ſtraunge deliuerance, by the mightie power of Gods prouidence, againſt the malice of Sathan and his agent Antichriſt, his chiefe Factor; this womans faith, beeing ſupported by the two Teſtamentes of the great & onelie God of heauen and earth: as it were by the wings of a great Ægle, whereby ſhe is ſafelie carried, directed and lifted vp in minde, farre from the common tracke, of this wretched worlde: the more aptlie to be exerciſed, and to direct her contemplatiõ & functiõ, in the cauſes of hir Chriſt, & God: & the more quietly with a repoſed & reſolute confidence, in the boſome of the higheſt, which is hir aſſured and prepared place ſafely, to endure, all brunts of Antichriſt: hir cancred, hateful and murdering enimie. Such a woman exactly may be ſaide to effect this propheſie.

Not to bee doubted what woman by the mighty wings of the great Ægle, namely the two teſtamẽts whereby ſhe is taught rdſolutely to repoſe in the boſome of the Higheſt, which is hir prepared place for aſſured defence.

Text.

And the Serpent caſt out of his mouth, water after the woman like a floude, that he might cauſe hir to be carried away of the floude. So as King Dauid compared all his troubles and daungers to great flouds of waters, ſo here is ſaide that the Serpent ſhoulde caſt out as it were a riuer of water after this woman, that ſhee might bee carried away with the floude. That is to ſay, out of his lying, blaſphemous and damned mouth, hee ſhall diſgorge floudes of falſe accuſations, of hereſie, of falſe vſurpation of a Kingdome, of abſoluing ſubiects from obedience, of practiſing conſpiracies, of poyſonings, of diuers ſortes of violent murders, of curſes, by booke, bell, and Candle, and an ocean Sea of many more contriued miſchiefes: deuiſing by all his naturall and curſed

Not to bee do ubted againſt what woman the dragon & his Antichriſt hath throwne out ſo manie Flouds of deuiſes for hir deſtruction.

meanes

meanes of lies, deceit, and murder, to perſecute, & to extinguiſh this woman, his moſt apparant enemie, from the face of the earth. A notorious diſcouerie, by what ſpirit this Antichriſt is gouerned: ſo as if there bee any ſuch woman, vppon whom this Serpent and his Antichriſt, notoriouſly haue imployed ſo many euils, onely for the Goſpel of Ieſus Chriſt. That ſame woman may ſafely be ſaid to effect this prophecie.

Text.

And the earth holpe the woman, and the earth opened hir mouth, and ſwallowed vp the ſloude, which the Dragon caſt out of his mouth; At the Lordes will: all his creatures, ſhall be forced to preſerue his elect, as nowe the earth ſhall open hir mouth, to aſſiſt thoſe that loue him: in which cauſe, if the God of all power, had not taken order, that the earth ſhoulde ſwallow vp that Riuer, which is the multitude of earthly creatures, being taught from God, to digeſt theſe cruell and falſe accuſations, with a minde of true knowledge and faithfull obedience, which otherwiſe impoſſible, to haue eſcaped this whirlpoole of confuſion: which diuers Kings, and Emperours, in times paſt, could not by any meanes eſcape: which at this preſent, the Lords good grace and fauour, hath made ſtarke drie, and without effect: Nowe if there be any woman vpon earth that hath founde, and receiued this fauour from God. That woman may be ſaid, to effect this propheſie.

Not to bee doubted for what woman God hath taken order that the earth and his other creature ſhould ſtand foorth for hir defence.

Text.

And the Dragon was wroth with the woman, & went & made war, with the remnant of hir ſeed, which keep the cõmandements of God, & haue the teſtimonie of Ieſus Chriſt. Here the Dragon is ſaid to continue his wrath, not

onely

Here the text it ſelfe maketh cleere expoſition of this wrath & war of this ſaide beaſt againſt this ſaid woman and hir ſeede namely the keeping of the commandements of God & for the teſtimony of Ieſus Chriſt for which cauſes howe many temptations this woman hath indured and infinit ſeede and people, haue & muſt ſuffer diſtruction.

only againſt the woman, but alſo maketh war with hir ſeede, the cauſe is here alſo manifeſted: namely, for keeping, the commandements of God, and for the teſtimonie of Ieſus Chriſt, our onely meane, & ſaluation, and our moſt ſpeciall cauſe, to glorifie God, and wherefore we are chiefly borne. But ſuch and ſo great is the impiety, and impudency of Antichriſt: which is mounted vpon the higheſt degree of ll wickednes & abhomination: Who procureth a ſo gret ſlaughter, for ſo holy, & ſo deuine a cauſe: namely, the aduancemēt of the glory of god, which hee himſelfe, and all other creatures, whatſoeuer, ſhould holde in moſt eſpeciall, and ſingular reuerence. But yet to ſpeake the trueth, and to giue him his right: we muſt needes confeſſe, to haue receiued this much fauour at his handes: who nowe, and at this inſtant, hath giuen foorth, a moſt plaine and cleare expoſition of this prophecie, to all perſons that are not obdurate, dull, or incenſate.

And went and made warre. That is to ſay, hee hunteth and maketh inquiſition for bloude, for of his owne venemous nature, hee hath no remiſſion but ſeeketh continually deſtruction, and alwaies without iuſt cauſe, enforceth occaſion of ſlaughtet, for he hath no delight in the peace of GOD, but alſo maketh warre with the remnaunt of hir ſeede. That is, againſt all profeſſours of the ſacred worde of GOD, whether in Fraunce, Flaunders, or elſewhere: that by hir example, or protection haue boldly, diſcouered the fruits of their faith in the commaundementes of God, and the teſtimony

Text. Which number if by anie poſſible meanes might be regiſtred that hath beene murdered in field or towne onely for the teſtimonie of Ieſus Chriſt, it would oppres all honeſt

testimony of Iesus Christe. Wherein lyeth all the quarrels, and the true cause of all this bloudie broyle seriously to be noted: the professours whereof, must all be slaine (without exception) if they doe not forsake their assured saluation in Christe, and fall downe vnto the beast, to their vtter destruction both of body and soule. And forasmuch as from the beginning of this propheſie there neuer appeared so great a conuention, and gathering together of Kings, Princes, and Rulers, for the subuersion and slaughter of true Christians, and the Christian estate (as at this present) but as concerning the rest, for what offences soeuer, they shall haue both his peace and blessing, and his plaine and full remission for all their sinnes, be it either periury, buggery, treason, murder, and all other such trifling sinnes; they are not to stand in any doubt of his good fauour, and blessing. Now if any such notable woman, vpon whome, all these aforesaide practises, conspiracies, and many more euils, & mischiefes, haue beene notoriously inflicted. That same woman, without exception, respecting hir sexe, hir estate, hir scituation, hir profession, hir proceedings, the condition of hir enemies, their practises, their executions, their counterfeite holy assemblies, and the true cause of all their dealing, meaning, and quarrels effectually examined, and in a worde to be finished. What conclusion of peace might be doubted, if she renounce Christ, and admit popery; This

mindes with most dolefull and deadly griefe, but alas for remedie how, where and by what meanes may wee finde slaughtred Christian bloud sufficient, which onely & none other may satisfie this most cruel vnsatiable monster expressing most cleerelie to be Sathans most trustie & cheefe executioner to performe all maner his cruelties against God, & man, vnspeakeable, but blessed are all they and a thousande times happie whose courage is not daunted, to resist to fight and to destroy this horible monstrous beast: And loue not their liues vnto the death.

woman where, or whatsoeuer, beyond all other, that hath liued vppon earth vnto this day: most neerely, and fully performeth this prophecie: neither any other to be expected, that more effectually shall accomplish the same; And yet I dare not to name any person, either presume to confesse any exposition, of so rare, and secrete mistery of God; but forsomuch as the Angell hath saide, it shall be reuealed in the latter daies in his time appointed; except, they shoulde bee written in vaine, some one person although not speciall by Gods fauour, who is all, in all, with his good spirite shall giue ablenes to performe the same. And thus with all humblenes, I beseech your good Honour of your fauour, not onely to accept the reading of these premisses: but also, that desire to doe well, may bee mine excuse, for all defectes, that heerein may appeare.

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FINIS.

Edward Hellwis.